

Background

he Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is the central contracting agency for procurement and delivery of unaccompanied personnel housing (UPH) furniture and furnishings for Army installations worldwide. The central manager of the funding for the furnishings program is the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (OACSIM).

The mission for managing UPH replacement furnishings was added by the Installation Management Command (IMCOM) in 2005. The mission was further expanded to include the centralized management of Army administrative furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E), and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

Purpose

The Furnishings Program mission is to buy initial issue furniture and furnishings in accordance with annual work plans and to manage the delivery of those items to the new / renovated facility by the beneficial occupancy date (BOD). The program also provides for replacement furnishings to meet the installations' requirements.

Services provided by Huntsville Center include assisting the ACSIM and IMCOM in annual budgeting and work plan formulation; preparing and executing the acquisition plan for worldwide procurement of furniture and furnishings (F&F); developing and maintaining current minimum quality specifications for the FF&E; evaluating and awarding supply and services contracts to vendors offering the best value to the government; managing the delivery of the FF&E to coincide with the often dynamic BOD; measuring and evaluating program efficiency and cost effectiveness;

serving as the clearing house for end user comments and lessons learned; and recommending or implementing improvements to program management and acquisition strategies.

In FY 08 more than 450 contracts were processed by Huntsville Center under this program with an in-house cost, including technical and program management services, averaging 4 percent of the total contract obligation amount.

Vendors must comply with General Service Administration industry standard specifications that incorporate the durability Soldiers require. Requests for quotes are directed to those vendors having complying lines of furniture, ensuring only comparable furniture in terms of quality of materials, special features and overall dimensions (critical for facility standard design application) are being considered for best value award.

Army installations throughout the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Germany, Italy and Korea have had barracks furnishings centrally procured by the Huntsville Center.



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Center is the centralized procurement office for furniture needs throughout the Army. This is an example of what someone might find inside a barracks.